

Artist profile Raphaël Battoia

The starting point is always the same: a meeting.

It is this meeting which is at the origin of my work. As an unexpected appointment, a stroll, an object, a texture I activate my camera.

According to my ballads of my journeys I accumulated dozens thousand pictures.

In the intimacy of my studio occurs then the second meeting. With the humor of moment I view the images gleaned here and there. It is a strange moment of peace and big interiority mixed with the excitement of the creative research. Everything in me makes available on the rediscovery, on the meeting.

Without knowing how to explain why, at a moment a photo questions me, its atmosphere, its colors, a memory, an emotion, no matter, I know that it is it. The alchemy does its job, the work of creation can begin... Always curious very alive genes, open, I look, question and I explore in posteriori patrimonial references which live intuitively in my work.

I am self-taught, I have never made a school of art or photography. My iconographic culture and my creative instinct, I inherited them, partially, from my grandfather painter.

When the work begins, the magic operates. I deconstruct, reframe, saturate, deduct, add, stress, more, less light, values, contrast. During the graphic work, I recompose and create a new image totally, or partially, different from its matrix.

My work comes in three universes: " the classics ", " atmospheres " and finally " whims ".

It happens, on certain pictures, that I do not work them or just a little, keeping them so faithful to my first vision. It is what I name my "classic" universe.

" Atmospheres " could be called as well: "photo-paintings". Replacing the brush and the paint by a software, I texture and "removal" on the photographic medium the "material" which aggravates the emotion. Colors, forms and graphics evolve in echo with the picture of origin.

It is necessary to me to show as much as to reveal it " perspectiva artificialis " in the bend of a street, a row of streetlights developed at the appropriate time by the Florentine architect Filippo Brunelleschi. Imaginary game of an immediate reality inventing a fragment of a reality chosen at random by a walk and crossed through unusual filters which operate to create a new reality. The medium livens up of colors, a New World was born, unique and unexpected, renewed ceaselessly.

My new serie "Carrocatures" (french neologism of window panes and caricature), exploit the same technique but applies to the people, so becoming a modern and digital version of the caricature, give another vision of this person, a kind of metaphor of our everyday life:

Who are we?

How the others see us?

Or rather, how we believe that other people imagine us!!!

It is every time a new discovery because, according to the basic photo, the result will be either never the same, or known in advance. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, sometimes terrible he can also arrive that nothing takes out my work, the pleasure of the creation come from there also, nothing is beforehand won and fortunately.

My third universe it's the one that I name "whims". It is my part tribute to the great master of the Venetian paint of XVII ème century, Canaletto and in his extremely famous panoramas of Venice. Depiction celebrates by its geometrical rigor, its art of the prospect and its subtle game of shade and light which stage, in a skilfully studied harmony, landscapes in the strange and ornamental architectural elements, the Venetian architecture, the lives of the men on Gran Canal and in Venice. But also by his "capricci", representations of places in the improbable reality, imaginary but representational, dreamlike and mesmerizing.

But the work does not stop when I think I gave life and form to my creation, I need the spectator to end the work ...

The singular look which each borrows from its history, from its way of life has a dialogue with the creations which I propose. The story told by each of my photo-paintings multiplies according to the new meetings and new exchanges with the spectators. Two universes are profoundly penetrated, join, this is the way my work is reborn every time a new look see it.

Written in association with Valérie Perrier-Sarrazin professor and art critic,

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I am an autodidact and I never took any class. I have learned photography by practicing it with passion. Since 15 years and with the arrival of the digital, I went from photography to artistic creation using my own photographs.

I met with people from the artistic field who became friends : Valérie Perrier-Sarrazin, art teacher and critic ; Micheline Leberre, graduate of the Beaux-Arts of Paris, drawer and artist-painter and Edith Poinsot-Lardy, artist's agent. They encouraged me to exhibit my work. I followed their advice and I exhibited my creations at the Oberkampf gallery in 2013. The positive feedbacks of the visitors reinforced my choice to continue in that direction.

At the end of 2016, I invented the "Carrocatures", which propose a digital and modern version of caricature.

After several exhibitions and the feedbacks of visitors, I am convinced of the originality of my work and I'm trying to make it known abroad.

Solo exhibits

Gallery Oberkampf in Paris June 2013
Crêperie La galette capricieuse in Paris 2016-2017
Fondation Rothschild Paris January 2017
Fondation Rothschild Paris February 2018
Fondation Rothschild Paris May 2018
WeArtFromParis Paris March 2017
Ass. Andines Saint Denis France May/June 2018

Group exhibits

Art3f Paris Porte de Versailles January 2017
Cinese cultural center Aulnay sous bois France April 2017
Art Shopping Carousel du Louvre Paris June 2017
SAM 2017 Giverny France September 2017
West Lake Art Fair Oct.2017 Hangzou China
« Tutti i colori di Megaart » Nov.2017 Corchiano Roma Italy
« Fabuleux bestiaire » Cultural center Charenton le pont France Nov.2017
« Co-existence » Bibliotece Elsa Morante Roma Italy Feb.2018
Galleria Rossocinabro Roma Italy Feb/Mar. 2018
New York Art Expo with Mécénavie April 2018
Art Shopping Carousel du Louvre Paris with Mécénavie June 2018

Virtual exhibits

« Les Recombinants » Art-O-Rama Marseille August 2017
« Art noise 2018 » museum muvi.roma.it Jan/Feb 2018

Biennale

Biennale Internazionale d'Arte et Cultura Romart 2017 Roma Italy Nov/jan. 2018